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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2002 LB 898

should keep. The A bill, LB 898A, provides for \$22 million less of appropriations, but it does not reduce the state's obligation. The object of the Governor's displeasure, I think Senator Kristensen went over, was the levy exclusion. As far as I know, the Governor did support the rest of the package. In an effort to express his displeasure with the levy exclusion, he vetoed LB 898 and signed LB 898A. What this does is unravel the whole proposal. There is no distribution mechanism, there is no recertification procedure and date, there is no longer a three-year program. And what would happen if this were left, would at least be a great deal of uncertainty for the public schools. They are in the process of making budgets, of planning for next year, they need to know what it is the state is going to redo...do regarding state aid. I am, as I mentioned before, absolutely not going to back down from the proposal of the levy exclusion. I think that is a solid part of the bill. It's something we should have done, we did do, and I thank you for that. It's something that should be there. So I'm going to ask you to support the override. You were right the first time. You made the difficult but responsible decision. You made it in an equitable fashion. I'm asking you to stick with that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Byars. (Doctor of the day introduced.) Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. And I want to tell Senator Coordsen and Senator Schrock, I'm not sure what's in these cookies, but I've never met a cookie that I didn't like. And I want to commend Senator Janssen for observing his anniversary yesterday with cookies. And Senator Cudaback, knowing that you did have a birthday last week that went unobserved, certainly I think this body probably would appreciate more cookies. I just wanted to remind you of that birthday that you had, Senator Cudaback. Let's all have a round of applause for Senator Cudaback for his birthday last week. (Applause)

SENATOR CUDABACK: I can't respond.

SENATOR BYARS: To LB 898, I am standing, briefly, as I hope all